Growth in telecom sector

941. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth in telecom sectors in recent years has concentrated in urban areas only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth has touched the rural India;

(c) the steps being taken to spread the telephone network in rural areas;

(d) the number of villages which do not have telephone connections so far, State-wise;

(e) the villages which have VPT facility; and

(f) by when all villages are expected to have telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The growth in telecom sector is not confined to urban areas only but it is also in the rural areas.

(c) The following steps are being taken to spread the telephone network in the rural areas:—

(i) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems have inducted in the rural network.

(ii) New exchanges are being opened with reliable media like optical fibre.

(iii) Conversion of small and medium exchanges into Remote Subscriber Units (RSUs)/upgradation to main exchanges.

(iv) Conversion of C-DOT 256P RAXs (Rural Automatic Exchanges) into V5.2 Access Network RAXs.

(d) The total number of villages (State-wise) which do not have telephone connections are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(e) The total number of villages which have VPT facility as on 31.01.2003 is 511128.

(f) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to provide telecom facility in 31074 villages by 2003-04 subject to availability of resources. Remaining villages will be covered by private operators and efforts will be made to cover the villages with VPTs by the end of year 2003.

Statement

State-wise uncovered villages as on 31.1.2003

S.No.	States	Uncovered Villages as on 31.01.2003
1	Andaman and Nicobar	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	4727
3	Assam	6701
4	Bihar	2707
5	Chhattisgarh	5087
6	Delhi	0
7	Gujarat$$	3347
8	Haryana	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	340
10	Jammu and Kashmir	2668
11	Jharkhand	5433
12	Karnataka	1
13	Kerala**	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	13861
15	Maharashtra@	9799
	North East-I	
16	Meghalaya	3913
17	Mizoram	105
18	Tripura	114
	North East-II	
19	Arunachal Pradesh	2678
20	Manipur	1673
21	Nagaland	384
22	Sikkim	53
23	Orissa	6647
24	Punjab$	0
25	Rajasthan	14904
26	Tamil Nadu ***	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	6226
28	Uttaranchal	4013
29	West Bengal	978
	TOTAL	96363

$$ Gujarat includes the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

** Kerala includes the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Islands.

@ Maharashtra includes the State of Goa.

$ Punjab includes the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

*** Tamil Nadu includes the Union Territory, Pondicherry.